

Claims

- [c1] A method for controlling duplicate printing by a user of a first shipping label having an identifier comprising:
receiving a shipping label request from a client system;
indicating a request to print the shipping label;
initiating a shipping label print task;
receiving a print success indicator;
if the print success indicator indicates that the print was successful, logging the identifier as a successful print;
if the print success indicator indicates that the print was not successful, offering a reprint option to the user; and
if the reprint option is not successful, logging the identifier as an unsuccessful print.
- [c2] The method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing first data to the client system for forming at least a portion of a sample shipping label to a portion of a client system program window that is visible to the user;
providing second data to the client system for forming at least a portion of the first shipping label to a portion of the client system program window that is not visible to the user.

- [c3] The method of claim 2 wherein:
the first data is a portion of an image of the sample shipping label.
- [c4] The method of claim 2 wherein:
the second data is at least a portion of the first shipping label.
- [c5] The method of claim 1 wherein:
the indication of a request to print the shipping label is from a portion of the client system program window that is visible to the user.
- [c6] The method of claim 2 wherein:
the client system comprises a web browser application;
the web browser application provides a visible portion for displaying a first frame including the sample shipping label image;
the web browser application provides a non visible portion for displaying a second frame including the first shipping label image; and
the data provided to the client system is provided by a first web server.
- [c7] The method of claim 6 further comprising:
providing formatting instructions to the client system,
wherein

the formatting instructions prevent user access to the second frame.

- [c8] The method of claim 6 wherein:
the shipping label is an image file using an image file format selected from the group: GIF, BMP, TIFF, JPEG, PIX, PNG and PCX.
- [c9] The method of claim 6 wherein:
the reprint option is available to the user for a period of time.
- [c10] The method of claim 9 wherein:
the period of time is five minutes.
- [c11] The method of claim 9 wherein:
the identifier is logged as an unsuccessful print if the reprint option is not successfully completed within the period of time.
- [c12] The method of claim 6 wherein:
the shipping label includes image portions obtained from a second web server; and
the sample shipping label comprises image portions obtained from a second web server.
- [c13] The method of claim 7 wherein
the formatting instructions prevent scrolling and resizing

of the client display.

- [c14] A method for detecting fraud by a user of a shipping label having an identifier comprising:
 - receiving a print success indicator for the shipping label having a first identifier;
 - receiving a list of identifiers representing items processed by a shipping stream;
 - if the print success indicator is negative, reporting a potential fraud if the first identifier is present in the list of identifiers; and
 - if the print success indicator is positive, reporting a potential fraud if the first identifier is present at least twice in the list of identifiers.
- [c15] The method of claim 14 wherein:
 - the list of identifiers is received periodically.
- [c16] The method of claim 15 wherein:
 - the list of identifiers comprise identifiers recognized for a period of time.
- [c17] The method of claim 15 wherein:
 - the list of identifiers is received daily.
- [c18] The method of claim 16 wherein:
 - the list of identifiers comprises identifiers recognized during the prior six months.

- [c19] The method of claim 15 further comprising:
reporting a potential fraud if an identifier having a successful print indicator is not recognized within an expected package period.
- [c20] The method of claim 19 wherein:
the expected package period is one period selected from the group of one day, one week, one month and six months.
- [c21] A method for detecting fraud by a user of a transportation item having an identifier comprising:
receiving a print success indicator associated with the transportation item;
receiving a list of identifiers used in a shipping stream;
if the print success indicator is negative, reporting a potential fraud if the indicator is present in the list of identifiers; and
if the print success indicator is positive, reporting a potential fraud if the indicator is present at least twice in the list of identifiers.
- [c22] The method of claim 21 wherein:
the list of identifiers is received periodically.
- [c23] The method of claim 22 wherein:
the list of identifiers comprise identifiers recognized for

a period of time.

- [c24] The method of claim 22 wherein:
the identifiers comprise identifiers from a plurality of
sets of identifiers.
- [c25] The method of claim 23 wherein:
the list of identifiers comprises identifiers recognized
during the prior six months.
- [c26] The method of claim 22 further comprising:
reporting a potential fraud if an identifier having a suc-
cessful print indicator is not recognized within a ex-
pected package period.
- [c27] The method of claim 26 wherein:
the expected package period is one period selected from
the group of one day, one week, one month and six
months.
- [c28] The method of claim 21 wherein:
the transportation item is an item selected from the
group: envelopes, post cards, postage labels, labels and
packages.
- [c29] The method of claim 21 wherein:
the identifiers are selected from at least one set of iden-
tifiers wherein the set of identifiers includes one or more

from the group: planet codes, delivery confirmation numbers, IBI indicia, identifiers including the combination of a piece count and permit number, and identifiers including the combination of a meter number and ascending register.